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Applicant: Gorsuch et al. Application No.: 10/776,558

REMARKS

After the foregoing Amendment, Claims 3, 9-15, 21-25, 27 and 31-170 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 16-20, 26 and 28-30 have been canceled without prejudice.

In accordance with the Interview conducted with Examiner Joy Kimberly Contee on September 8, 2006 (hereinafter the Interview), the Examiner agreed to withdraw the prior art rejection included in the Office Action dated June 20, 2006.

Also in accordance with the Interview and notwithstanding withdrawal of the prior art rejection, Claims 3, 9-15, 21-25, 27 and 32 have been amended to improve their readability without changing the patentability of the subject matter thereof and new claims 33-170 have been added. Applicants submit that no new matter has been introduced into the application by these amendments.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 3-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2004/0180696. In view of the remarks provided above, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 102(e) rejection is respectfully requested.

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Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephone interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 3, 9-15, 21-25, 27 and 31-170, is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Gorsuch et al.

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